



**CONGRESSMAN JOHN LEWIS**  
*Serving the 5<sup>th</sup> Congressional District of Georgia*

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## THE LAW ENFORCEMENT INCLUSION ACT

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On August 6, 2019 Congressman John Lewis reintroduced H.R. 4168, the Law Enforcement Inclusion Act. First introduced in 2016, this cost-neutral bill advances one aspect of improving community and police relations.

### BILL OVERVIEW

H.R. 4168, the Law Enforcement Inclusion Act expands the use of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) grants to include recruiting, hiring, incentivizing, retaining, developing, and training new or current officers, who are willing to reside in the communities which they are charged to protect and serve and/ or where resident-police relations are strained.

### BACKGROUND

Established in 1994, the Department of Justice's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) issues grants to State, local, tribal, and territorial law enforcement agencies. The Office's mission is to support initiatives that build trust and mutual respect between police and communities.

In 2014, President Obama established the Task Force 21<sup>st</sup> Century Policing to identify best practices and provide recommendations on how policing practices can promote effective crime reduction while building public trust. The final report, [published by the task force in 2015](#), notes that law enforcement agencies should develop and adopt policies and strategies that reinforce the importance of community engagement in managing public safety.

In response to the Taskforce's recommendations to build trust and legitimacy while enhancing community policing, Rep. Lewis introduced the Law Enforcement Inclusion Act in 2016. The bill expands the [existing range of authorized purposes](#) for which the COPS Office may issue grants. This cost-neutral proposal expands the eligible use of the existing COPS program to help implement change at the local level. Trust is greater between community and law enforcement when officers live in and are demographically representative of the communities they serve.

The Law Enforcement Inclusion Act presents a partial solution to alleviate a part of this historic disconnect and distrust between communities of color and law

enforcement. It is included in both the Jobs in Policing Act of 2020 and the Jobs and Justice Act.